

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 09069 130447Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00

OES-07 DHA-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /102 W

-----130453Z 044457 /16

P 130300Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1041

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS' INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS JUNE 12TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS, PRESIDENT MARCOS STRESSED NATION'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE ANNOUNCED CREATION OF TWO NEW CABINET POSTS (ENERGY AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION) AND HIS INTENTION CREATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT. MARCOS SAID DOMESTIC SUGAR SUBSIDY WOULD BE TERMINATED. PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS STRESSING RELIANCE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL NATIONS STANDARD. MARCOS EMPHASIZED PROGRESS UNDER MARTIAL LAW BUT SAID NEXT YEAR WOULD BE CRUCIAL TO NATIONAL SURVIVAL. HE REITERATED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS ALTHOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS PARTICIPANTS IN INDEPENDENCE DAY SYMPOSIUM WITH ANTI MARCOS FLAVOR ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO CAMP CRAME. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED CREATION OF TWO NEW POLITICAL BODIES TO ENHANCE POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN HE WOULD CALL ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATURE ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WANTED ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ECONOMIC

PRESIDENT MARCOS DELIVERED 65 MINUTE TELEVISED INDEPENDENCE DAY REPORT TO NATION JUNE 12. EMPHASIS WAS PRIMARILY ECONOMIC. PRESIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 09069 130447Z

PRAISED NEW SOCIETY'S RECORD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT CITED CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION. MARCOS ANNOUNCED TERMINATION OF SUGAR SUBSIDY AND INCREASE IN PRICE TO LOCAL PRODUCERS WHICH WILL RESULT IN HIGHER PRICES FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS. HE REPORTED SOME BUT NOT ENOUGH PROGRESS IN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ANNOUNCED CREATION OF NEW DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PROGRAM. HE ALSO CREATED NEW

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO FORM DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT.

3. POLITICAL

A) IN POLITICAL PORTION OF HIS REPORT MARCOS SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION

TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR LEGISLATURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT HE DID NOT SPECIFY TIMING. HE CLAIMED COUNTRY MOVING "DECISIVELY TOWARDS A GENUINE AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. HE ANNOUNCED CREATION OF TENDOBAYAN AND SANDIGAN BAYAN. THE TANODBAYAN (OMBUDSMAN) WILL INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHILE THE SANDIGAN BAYAN WILL ACT AS COURT WITH JURISDICTION OVER CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES INVOLVING CORRUPT PRACTICES BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

B) HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESIDENT SAID GOP HAD TO MAKE CHOICES IN FACE OF REALITIES CONFRONTING COUNTRY. BUT HE CLAIMED IN NO CASE "HAVE WE SACRIFICED EITHER THE RIGHTS OR DIGNITY OR VALUES OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE PURSUED OUR PROGRAMS ALWAYS GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT WHILE APPROACHES TO FREEDOM MAY VARY, THERE IS ONLY ONE ACCEPTABLE UNIVERSAL STANDARD AND THAT IS, THAT THE HUMAN BEING MUST BE EXALTED NOT REPRESSED OR CRUSHED IN THE EFFORT TO ATTAIN DEVELOPMENT." BEGIN FYI THERE ARE REPORTS THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SYMPOSIUM WITH ANTI MARTIAL LAW FAVOR AT ST JOSEPH COLLEGE WERE ARRESTED BY METROCOM AFTERNOON JUNE 12 AND TAKEN TO CAMP CRAME. WE ARE ATTEMPTING DEVELOP MORE DETAILS. END FYI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 09069 130447Z

C) FOREIGN POLICY. MARCOS PRAISED GOP'S EFFORTS TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS AND EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SELF RELAINCE. STRESSING NEED FOR "STABLE EQUILIBRIUM OF INFLUENCE AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS OF NAIA. "MARCOS SAID IT WAS IN KEEPING WITH THIS VIEW THAT DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITH US BEING RENEGOTIATED. "THE US DECISION

TO REDUCE ITS TROOPS IN KOREA WHILE MAINTAINING ITS PRESENCE IN ASIA CONFORMS FULLY WITH THE NEW REALITIES AND WE FORESEE OTHER ADJUSTMENTS BEING MADE IN OTHER PARTS OF ASIA. WHATEVER DIRECTION AMERICAN POLICY FINALLY TAKES IN THE AREA OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE, WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT IT DOES NOT FIND US TOO ILL PREPARED TO ASSUME OUR OWN BURDENS AND THIS IS THE TIME TO PREPARE." PRESIDENT ALSO STRESSED ASEAN ROLE CLAIMING IT WAS "POTENTIALLY THE STRONGEST FORCE FOR STABILITY AND PROGRESS IN SEA."

D) DOMESTIC PEACE AND ORDER. MARCOS SAID PHILIPPINES CONTINUED TO "BESET BY INSURGENCY" AND THAT "THE COMING YEAR WILL BE CRUCIAL TO OUR SURVIVAL." HE HAD EARLIER STATED "THE DANGERS THAT CONFRONTED OUR COUNTRY FIVE YEARS AGO ARE STILL WITH US ALTHOUGH THEIR MANI-

FESTATIONS ARE LESS INTENSE." PRESIDENT ALLUDED TO SITUATION IN MANDANAO URGING REST OF NATION TO IDENTIFY WITH PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH SO MOSLEMS OF SOUTH WOULD IDENTIFY WITH NATION BUT DID NOT GO INTO GREAT DEAL OF DETAIL.

4. ATMOSPHERICS

MARCOS DELIVERED HIS 65 MINUTE SPEECH ON TV. THIS YEAR'S 79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY AUSTERE AND USUAL MILITARY REVIEW AT LUNETA WHERE PRESIDENT TRADITIONALLY SPOKE WAS CANCELLED. INSTEAD OF "OSTENTATIOUS PARADES AND FESTIVITIES" CITIZENRY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN TREEPLANTING, STREET CLEANING, BEAUTIFICATION AND OTHER NEW SOCIETY GOOD WORKS.

5. COMMENT. MARCOS SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN MATTER OF FACT SOMETIMES SOMBER TONE. CONTENT STRIKES US AS UNEXCEPTIONAL AND BASIC THEMES ARE FAMILIAR. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH PROGRESS UNDER NEW SOCIETY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 09069 130447Z

BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. NATION HAS COPEDED WITH SEVERE PROBLEMS BUT

MANY STILL REMAIN AND GOP MUST NOT RUN RISK OF LOSING GAINS OF LAST FIVE YEARS. PHILIPPINE IS MOVING TOWARDS "GENUINE AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY" BUT MARTIAL LAW IS STILL ESSENTIAL.
TEXT BEING POUCHED EA/PHL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA09069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770209-1072
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770664/aaaacdod.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2177271
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MARCOS' INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, ECON, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/612f4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009